

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 21-22, 2003

Reference No.: 2.3b.(3)
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Karla Sutliff
Chief
Division of Design

Ref: NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 08-RIV-91 AT SPRUCE STREET,
KP 34.5 (PM 21.5), RESOLUTION S-720

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Resolution S-720 and maps of the location on State Highway Route 91. The City of Riverside has requested approval of a new public road connection to Route 91 at Spruce Street. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve Resolution S-720 in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange to Route 91 in the City of Riverside, at Kilometer Post 34.5, (PM 21.5).

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) was approved for compliance with CEQA and NEPA in 2001. The Project Report was approved following review and consideration of the recommendations contained in the FEIS/FEIR.

Recommended by: BRENT FELKER, Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND

Existing State Highway Route 91 was adopted into the state system as a freeway by the California Highway Commission on November 19, 1952.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) was approved for compliance with CEQA and NEPA in 2001. The Project Report was approved following review and consideration of the recommendations contained in the FEIS/FEIR. These reports document the need and purpose of proposed improvements to the freeway network and local circulation patterns.

The Spruce Street interchange proposal is part of a set of major improvement projects for the SR-60, 91 and I-215 freeway corridors to improve safety, relieve congestion and improve operational efficiency. The proposed Spruce Street half-diamond, northbound off-ramp and southbound on-ramp only, interchange connection with SR-91 is intended to replace both the existing interchange at La Cadena Drive and Poplar Streets on SR-91, and the Spruce Street 'half-diamond' interchange on I-215. The La Cadena Dr./Poplar St. interchange is approximately 0.6 kilometer (0.4 mile) south of the 60/91/215 freeway to freeway interchange. The short distance to the freeway to freeway interchange means there is insufficient weaving distance for the existing short hook-type on-ramps, and inadequate storage on the short hook-type off-ramps. Both situations interfere with mainline operational capacity, exacerbating the congestion on the local facilities as well as the mainline freeways. Removal of the older interchanges will provide the necessary room for the merging and diverging movements for the new freeway to freeway connections. The proposed Spruce Street connection is required to maintain Route 91 ingress and egress for the commercial and residential traffic in this core downtown area. It will work together with the nearby interchanges of Mission Inn Blvd on SR-91 and Main Street on SR-60 to maintain this access without compromising mainline freeway operations.

The proposed project is estimated to cost \$294 million with funding from Flexible Congestion Relief funds under the HOV Operational Improvements (HB5) Program, the New Facilities: New Connections and Cross-Traffic Improvements (HE-11) Program, and the Operational Improvements (HB4N) Program. The Spruce Street Interchange is estimated to be less than 1% of the total capital cost.

PROPOSAL

The project proposes to construct, among other major operational improvements, a new local interchange, on State Route 91 in the City of Riverside at Spruce Street. The project will include construction of the southbound on-ramp and northbound off-ramp only.

COORDINATION

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) was approved for compliance with CEQA and NEPA in 2001. The Project Report was approved following review and consideration of the recommendations contained in the FEIS/FEIR. A Fact Sheet, justifying non-standard interchange spacing and other non-standard project features has been approved by the Department. A Superseding Freeway Agreement between the Department and the City of Riverside has been executed reflecting the proposed change in connections.

CONCLUSION

This new public road connection is needed to balance traffic distribution and to maintain existing local access to the freeway system. This new connection is in the best interest of the public.

Attachments: Resolution S-720, Area of Interest Map, Exhibit A

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing A New Public Road Connection
08-RIV-91 At Spruce St, KP 34.5 (PM 21.5)**

Resolution S-720

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside has requested approval of a new public road connection at Spruce Street on State Route 91; and

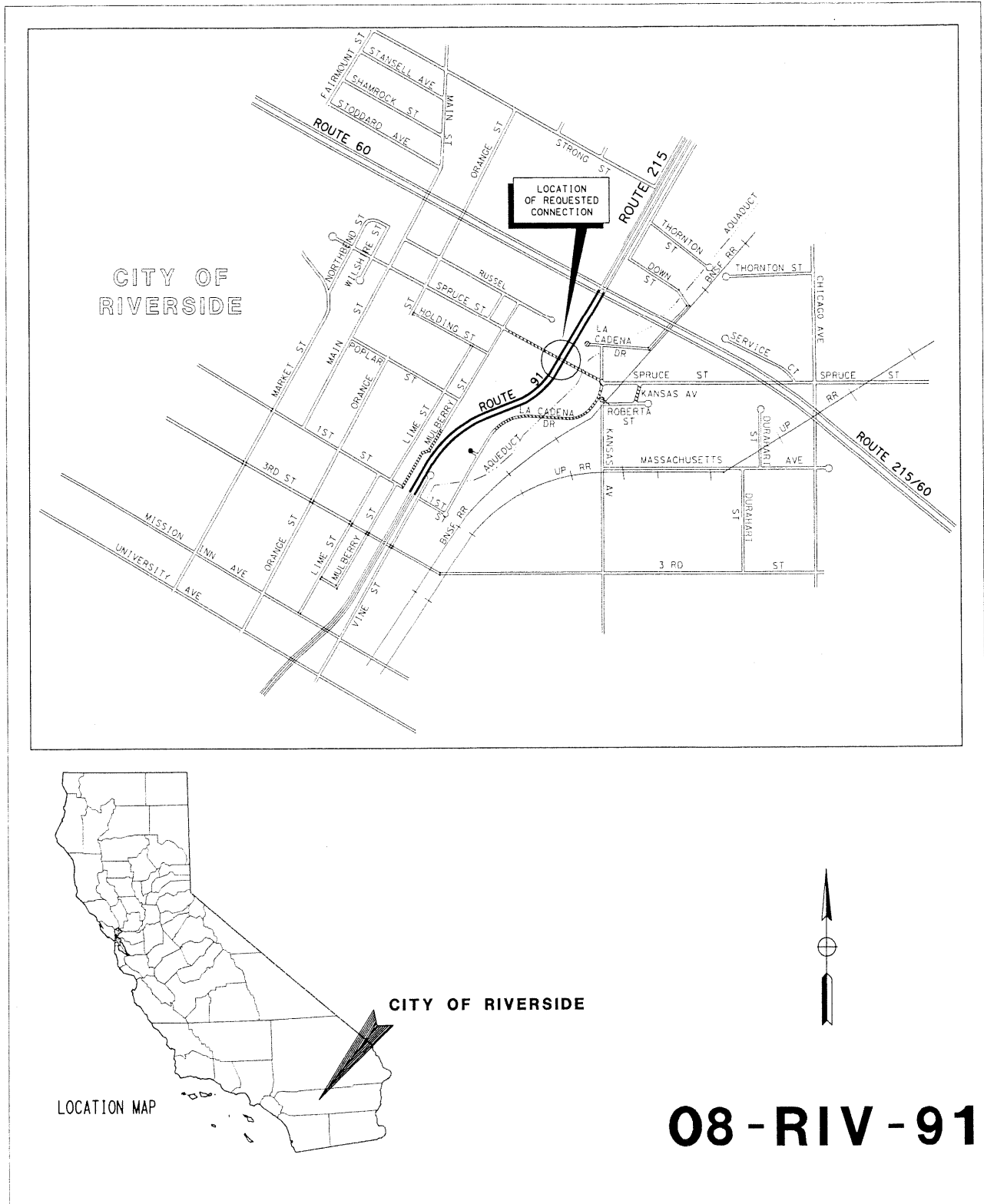
WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has approved a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on September 27, 2001, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and,

WHEREAS, the project will not have major impacts on the environment, and mitigation has been proposed and approved for impacts considered less than major; and

WHEREAS, the Project Report was approved, consistent with the alternative recommended in the FEIS, including the construction of the proposed connection and the closing of the La Cadena Drive/Poplar Street interchange, and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside and the State have entered into a superseding Freeway Agreement reflecting the proposed new connection and closing of the La Cadena Drive/Poplar Street interchange, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize a new public road connection to State Route 91 at Spruce Street, KP 34.5 (PM 21.5) in the City of Riverside.



NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION AREA OF INTEREST MAP

EXHIBIT A
SHEET 1 OF 1

LEGEND:

- FREEWAY**
- INTERCHANGE**
- SEPARATION**
- FRONTAGE ROAD OR LOCAL ROAD**
- ROAD CLOSURES & TERMINIS CONSTRUCTION AS NECESSARY**

PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
08-RIV-91-KP 34.5 (PM 21.5)

FREEWAY

IN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE

ON ROUTE 91
BETWEEN 1ST STREET
AND
ROUTE 215/60/91 INTERCHANGE

Scale 1:110,000 (Metric)

